

Princeton University, Guernsey Hall
(Field, Richard Stockton, House)
(Fieldwood)
63 Lovers Lane
Princeton
Mercer County
New Jersey

HABS No. NJ-792

HABS
NJ,
11-PRINT,
20-

PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

habs-eodc
Form 3C
8/63

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

Historian's Work Sheet for "Photo-Data Books" (Part I)

HABS
NJ,
11-PRIM
20-

Name of Structure Guernsey Hall (originally "Fieldwood" and later "Woodlawn")

State New Jersey County Mercer Town or vicinity Princeton

Street address or location 63 Lovers Lane

Present Owner (give address) Robert B. Moyer 63 Lovers Lane

Present Occupant Robert B. Moyer Present Use private house

Brief Statement of Significance:

Handsome central hall considered fine example of Notman's work and of Victorian "Italian" style.

PHYSICAL HISTORY (indicate sources of information for all statements) deeds
(copies in possession of owner, also on file in Mercer County
Original and subsequent owners (chain of title) Court House, Trenton, N.J.)

Richard Stockton Field acquired the land in 1842, originally 30 acre
Mrs. Susan D. Brown (1871)
Allan Marquand (1887)
Eleanor C. Marquand (his wife) 1919
William A. Garrigues (1951)
Oliver Spaulding
Newton Shaffer to Robert B. Moyer in 1963

Date of Erection Architect John Notman

Builder, suppliers, etc.

Unknown

Notes on original plan and construction of building No plans of original house or its alterations can be located. Princeton University Library owns a plan of original grounds (30 acres) signed John Notman, Oct. 19, 1846, but this shows house of a different shape from that actually built, also shows greenhouses etc in other locations than they were built.

Notes on known alterations and additions, with dates and architects

Major alterations and additions were made in 1912. Architects: Cross & C of New York. Builder Matthews of Princeton. Neither has any blue prints. Members of Marquand family can describe house prior to this. Photos are also available. Main hall was not changed at all except for floor and sky-light. See attached detailed notes on alterations and photos

HISTORICAL EVENTS AND PERSONS ASSOCIATED WITH BUILDING

Built by Richard Stockton Field, prominent New Jersey lawyer, Attorney General of New Jersey, 1838-1841, U.S. Senator to fill term of John R. Thomson after latter's death, appointed Judge of U.S. District Court for New Jersey in 1863. A founder of New Jersey Historical Society. Professor of Law during an abortive attempt to start a Law School at Princeton University, for which he commissioned from Notman the building known as "Ivy Hall", still standing at the juncture of Mercer and Alexander Streets.

House best known in recent Princeton history as residence of family of Prof. Allan Marquand, who founded Department of Art and Archaeology at Princeton University.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Primary and unpublished sources: Fully describe and give the locations of any original or later drawings, specifications, old views, manuscripts, or other papers. Transcribe or make appropriate citations to public documents and give their locations.

In addition to the plan of the grounds cited above, many old photographs may be found in the Princetoniana Collection of the Princeton University Library, as well as in the possession of descendants of Prof. Marquand, Notably Mrs. Harold Hochschild and Mrs. Douglas Delaney.

Secondary and published sources: For books and articles give the complete facts of publication (author, title, place of publication, date). Identify and give addresses of interviewees.

"Nassau Hall 1756-1956" by Henry Lyttelton Savage (published by Princeton University Press, 1956, pages 50-51 quotes Princeton Press, July 13, 1855, p.3 referring to house as existing then

"A treatise on the theory and practice of landscape gardening" by A.J. Downing, published by A.O. Moore & Co., NY 1859, refers to house p.55 and describes several trees in other pages. *1849 edition does not mention*

Article by Robert C. Smith on John Notman, published by Philadelphia Athenaeum, 1951, refers to house. Princeton University Library Chronicle Vol. 20, Spring 1959, article by F.J. Dallett on Notman, mentions house, a likely source not yet investigated includes good early photo (p.133)

Recollections of John Jay Smith, Phila. 1892

Short Sketch of John Notman. Box 2 B; Manuscript Collection, Historical Prepared by Eleanor Marquand Delaney (Mrs. Douglas Delaney) Society of

Date May 1964

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION OR CONTINUATIONS: Any of the above entries may be continued or exact transcripts in quotes from pertinent documents may be appended on additional sheets.

" Guernsey Hall "
Princeton, N.J.
(Originally known as "Fieldwood," then "Woodlawn")

The house, originally designed by John Notman for Richard S. Field was extensively altered as well as enlarged in 1912, by the New York firm of Cross and Cross, architects, who were my uncles. They have both died, and when we tried, some years ago, to get plans from their office, they were not to be found. However, at the time of the changes I was fifteen years old, and so I remember the old house very well, having lived there all my life.

The least changed part is the great central hall, which is the same except for the sky-light, which originally had etched glass in place of the plain there now, and the floor, which was paved with many colored tiles, covered with patterns in a rather Moorish effect. These were Minton tiles and some were in the cellar when we sold the house in 1951, as were fragments of the etched glass and one of the old red marble mantels. The colors in the walls of the hall were carefully followed when it had to be painted.

Architecturally unchanged also were the present dining-room and pantry. The pantry was originally Judge Field's law library and had its own door to the Mercer Street side of the house and the room was his law office. The interior decoration, panelling, mantel, leaded window panes, ~~were~~ done in 1912 but the old cornice was kept.

Until 1912, the door on the south (Mercer Street) side was the front door of the house. Driveways from the present gates on Mercer and Stockton Streets met and ~~there~~ was a circle into what now is part of the garden, which was built in 1912. The entrance was protected by a porch, upheld by iron grapevines, which ran all along the west side of the house as well as the south. (See photos)

On the north or Stockton Street side, the house stopped just beyond the big hall, and there was a big wooden porch there, upheld by wooden columns, which were more or less Doric in style. What is now the front drawing-room is entirely of the 1912 addition and the present library was changed at that time, since it had originally a bay on the north side, different windows on the garden side, and fake golden oak doors and trim.

The drawing room on the Mercer Street side was also changed, the fire-place being moved from the innermost corner to the end wall, where there had been a window. The cornice in this room and the present library are, however, the originals. All mantels are 1912, upstairs and down,

with the single exception of the one in the south east bathroom. This was, until 1912, a small bedroom, entered from the hall. Most of the old mantels were red marble and rather small.

The door on the stair landing led to a linen closet and the back stairs, since the front layer of the present house was not there. The fireplace in the south west bedroom was moved in 1912 to the end wall from the inner corner, like the one under it. The bath adjoining it was added then, taking up some of the space formerly forming part of the small room connecting with it now.

When my father bought the house in 1887, the only central heat came through a grill in the middle of the big hall. The rooms all had fire-places - that is, the family rooms did. I do not think the servants rooms did! The only bath was just off the big hall on the north east, on the ground floor. The roof gutters all drained in to a large cistern near the kitchen door. Drinking water was bought in bottles.

The plan for the grounds, as drawn by Notman in October, 1846, was not carried out. The 8 green houses were all built in the north-east corner of the property. Some of their brick walls can still be seen on what is now the property of Harold C. Hochschild. These green-houses were in active service until the coal shortage of World War 1 required them to be shut down. There was a hot one for orchids, a cool one in which camellias grew as big as trees, an ordinary one for carnations and such and the rest for an assortment of fabulous grapes.

There was also an enormous formal garden with walks and flower-beds, covering the entire field in the north-east corner, now the baseball field of the park. It had a huge mirror ball on a stand in the middle

The stables were added to the old house on Stockton Street, now belonging to Mr. W.D. Williams. They were removed in 1952.

What Notman lists as the gardener's cottage on Lovers Lane was an old farm house, on the land when Judge Field bought the property. Its well was still there in my childhood, but the house had gone and the gardener occupied the old stone house near the greenhouses, (now on the Hochschild property).

My mother, who had access to unpublished papers of the Stockton family, gave the date 1852 for the house, but I have not been able to document this as yet.

Eleanor Marquand Delanoy
(Mrs. Douglas Delanoy)

May 1964